THE NATIONAL HOMEGOING CELEBRATION

for

The Right Reverend LaFar Benjamin Johnson
Church of God in Christ
Jurisdictional Bishop
California Northeast Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction

Tuesday, the twenty-first of May
At 12 o'clock noon
Two Thousand Two
Anno Domini

Acts Full Gospel
Church Of God In Christ
1034 66th Avenue
Oakland, California 94621

His Grace, THE MOST REVEREND GILBERT EARL PATTERSON
Church of God in Christ
Presiding Bishop
Chief Officiant

"SERVANT OF GOD, WELL DONE!"

BISHOP LAFAR BENJAMIN JOHNSON

Yours was a useful life, you wrought well while here

You were generous with your time, as you toiled from year to year.

Many lives you did touch, always doing your part;

A God to serve when called upon, with a kind and humble heart.

Your life was dedicated to things of God both noble and true;

It was not task for you to work, there was nothing you couldn't do.

You will never be forgotten, though you've passed away;

The things you left behind will live on each day.

We don't want to give you up, but sleep on, take your rest;

The act of God we dare not question, for He alone knows best.

Note: (*) Where indicated, the congregation will please stand

QUIET MOMENTS.....*The Organist*

THE PROCESSIONAL

The Adjutant Overseer
**THE PRESIDING BISHOP*
The Assistant Presiding Bishops
The General Board
The Bishops
The Jurisdictional Pastors and Elders
The Visiting Clergy
The Family

The Sealing of the Bier

THE CALL TO WORSHIP.....*The Bishop*

***THE HYMN OF COMFORT**.....*The Choir and Congregation*
"We'll Understand It Better By and By"

***THE INVOCATION**.....*The Bishop*

THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE - Isaiah 40:28-31

THE CHORAL RESPONSE.....*The Choir*
"And In Jesus, I'm Safe Evermore"

THE NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE - I Thessalonians 4:13-18

***THE STATEMENT OF FAITH**.....*The Bishop*

The Leader: OUR BELIEF CONCERNING THE BIBLE
We believe the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible written Word of God.

The Leader: OUR BELIEF CONCERNING GOD
We believe there is one God, eternally existent in three persons, God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost.

The Leader: OUR BELIEF CONCERNING THE CHURCH
We believe in the Blessed Hope, which is the rapture of the Church of God, which is in Christ, at His return.

The Leader: OUR BELIEF CONCERNING SIN
We believe that the only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

The Leader: OUR BELIEF CONCERNING SALVATION
We believe that regeneration by the Holy Ghost is absolutely essential for personal salvation.

The Leader: OUR BELIEF CONCERNING CHRIST
We believe that the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing for the human body in answer to believing prayer.

The Leader: OUR BELIEF CONCERNING THE HOLY GHOST
We believe that the baptism in the Holy Ghost, according to Acts 2:4 is given to believers who ask for it.

The Leader: OUR BELIEF CONCERNING SANCTIFICATION
We believe in the sanctifying power of the Holy Ghost by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a holy and separated life in this present world. ***AMEN***

THE SELECTION.....*The California Northeast Jurisdictional Choir*

THE TRIBUTES (3 Minutes)

The Board of Bishops.....*The Bishop L. T. Walker*
Chairman
The General Assembly.....*The Bishop J. O. Patterson, Jr.*
Chairman
The General Church.....*Elder A. Z. Hall*
General Secretary
The General Board.....*The Bishop W. W. Hamilton*
Secretary

THE SELECTION.....*The California Northeast Jurisdictional Choir*

THE PRESENTATION OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP

THE SERMONIC HYMN.....*The Choir and Congregation*
"Amazing Grace"

THE EULOGY.....*The Most Reverend Gilbert Earl Patterson*
Church Of God In Christ
Presiding Bishop

***THE RECESSIONAL**

Assisting Officiants
Members of the General Board

The Bishop Charles Edward Blake
First Assistant Presiding Bishop
The Bishop J. Neaul Haynes
Second Assistant Presiding Bishop
The Bishop W. Wyatt Hamilton
Secretary
The Bishop Roy Lawrence Hailey Winbush
Assistant Secretary
The Bishop Chandler David Owens
Past Presiding Bishop
The Bishop Phillip Aquilla Brooks
The Bishop Samuel L. Green, Jr.
The Bishop LeRoy Anderson
The Bishop Levi E. Willis, Sr.
The Bishop George Dallas McKinney
The Bishop Nathaniel W. Wells, Jr.
The Bishop Ozro Thurston Jones, Jr.
Second Assistant Presiding Bishop, Emeritus

The Internment
Tuesday, May 21, 2002
Rolling Hills Memorial Park

FINAL ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO:
Whitted-Williams Funeral Home
Oakland, California

HONORARY PALLBEARERS
The Board of Bishops
Church of God in Christ

ACTIVE PALLBEARERS
Superintendents, Pastors, and Elders
California Northeast Jurisdiction

Bishop LaFar Benjamin Johnson
March 5, 1920 – May 14, 2002

Bishop LaFar Benjamin Johnson was the fourth son and seventh child born to the marriage of Godfrey and Madora Johnson in Mosville, Louisiana, a suburb of Lake Charles.

As a child he attended elementary school in Louisiana and upon the early death of his parents he moved to Beaumont, Texas with his older sister and brother-in-law (Asalee and Ernest Bryant). He was able not only to continue, but excelled in school despite the lost of his parents and financial struggles. He was known as a kid growing up to walk many times bear footed, because he could not always afford shoes. He graduated from the Charlton-Pollard High School as President and Salutatorian of his class in 1939. This lead to him having received scholarships from three prominent schools: Bishop College, Dillard University and Johnson C. Smith College.

Having finished high school, he took on a job delivering papers in the Beaumont area. One day on his paper route he found himself meeting a beautiful young lady who sat on the porch of her aunt's house. That young lady was Julia Robinson, whom he married in November of 1940. From that time on, pretty much where ever you saw Bishop Johnson you saw his wife, Mama Julia. In 1943, they relocated to the West Coast City of Oakland, California. As a result of their marriage, they had Sharon, Joy, LaFar Jr., Stanley, Michael and Marcia along with a large number of foster children that they dedicated their lives to taking care of. The Johnson household was never free of children until the couple was well into the seventies age bracket. He believed surrounding himself with young people helped to keep him active and feeling good! He loved young people; those in his house and outside of his house.

He received Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior in 1944 at the Mingleton Temple Church Of God In Christ. He served as a Deacon, Junior Minister, Elder and Assistant Pastor at this church up until 1955. In the month of May 1955, he was given permission to go out on his own and open up a church. The church was located in East Oakland in a small tool shop and given the name Calvary Temple Church Of God In Christ. Time, patience and faith allowed the new Pastor and members to tear down walls, erecting new and larger ones, and purchase properties around the immediate area creating a sizable church facility. The growth and success of the church allowed him to leave his job as a postal employee in the mid 1970's, becoming a full time minister. In 1978, he was awarded a Doctor of Divinity Degree from Trinity-Hall College and Seminary of Louisville, Kentucky.

Working diligently within the Northern California First Jurisdiction, he found himself over the years filling the positions of a District Superintendent, Youth President and Second Administrative Assistant in 1983 under Bishop B. R. Steward. In November of 1986, he was consecrated Bishop and placed over the newly formed California Northeast Jurisdiction, 'Built Under The Banner Of Love'.

In 1997, he removed himself as Pastor of the Calvary Temple Church and was replaced by his son, Reverend Michael Johnson. Shortly thereafter, he relocated with his wife to Stockton, California and became Pastor of A Greater Fellowship Church Of God In Christ, where he resided unto his death. People, whether at the local church level (Calvary Temple or A Greater Fellowship), Jurisdictional level, National level or within the Stockton Ecumenical Society he once presided over, all loved Bishop Johnson and he loved them. He will be missed, but not forgotten!

Bishop Johnson leaves his loving wife, Julia Johnson; sister, Lacy Dotson and husband Reverend Dotson of Richmond, California; children: Sharon Green of Clear Lake, Joy L. Johnson, LaFar Johnson, Stanley Henry, Reverend Michael Johnson all of Oakland, California and Marcia Riley of Stockton, California; Son-in-laws, Isaiah Green and Andre Riley; Daughter-in-law, Avanell-Bizzle Johnson; foster children, Teresa, Terina and Ursula; grandchildren, Lanai Cockerham, Jonathan and Mark Green, Aaron Smith, Mikayla Johnson, Nicole and Gabriel II and Benjamin Riley and a host of other great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, brother and sister-in-laws, and friends.

We'll Understand It Better By and By

Arr. R. E. Winsett
1. Here we're of - ten tossed and driv'n on the rest - less sea of time,
2. We are of - ten des - ti - tute of the things that life de-mands,
3. Tri - als hard on ev - 'ry hand, and we can - not un - der-stand
4. Here temp - ta- tion's hid - den snare of - ten takes us un - a - ware,
Roll - ing clouds and howl - ing tem - pest oft suc - ceed a bright sun - shine;
Want of shel - ter and of food, with thirs - ty hills and bar - ren land;
All the ways that God will lead us to that bless - ed prom - ised land;
And our hearts are made to bleed by some tho't - less word or deed;
In that land of per - fect day, when the mist is rolled a - way,
But we're trust - ing in the Lord, and ac - cord - ing to His word,
But He'll guide us with His eye, and we'll fol - low till we die,
And we won - der why the test when we try to do our best,
FINE CHORUS
We will un - der-stand it bet - ter by and by.
We will un - der-stand it bet - ter by and by. By and by, when the morn-ing comes,
We will un - der-stand it bet - ter by and by.
But will un - der-stand it bet - ter by and by.
D. S. - And we'll un - der-stand it bet - ter by and by.
D.S.
All the saints of God are gathered home, We'll tell the sto - ry how we o - ver-came,

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
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